GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:630
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2003
TARIFF CONCESSION TO BANGLADESH
RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has extended tariff concessions to 111 items exported from Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the trade volume between India and Bangladesh has increased;

(d) whether tariff concessions mutually benefits both the countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) & (b) During the Fourth Round of Trade Negotiations under SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) which concluded on 1st November, 2002, India granted tariff concessions on a total of 111 items to the Least Developed Member Countries of SAARC including Bangladesh. Of these, 107 items were from the request list of Bangladesh and four others from that of Maldives.The details of the list of items is available in the Customs Notification No.13/2003-Customs dated 20th January, 2003.

(c) The details of the trade volume between India and Bangladesh over the last five years are given below :

(Values in Rs. Lacs)

S.No.	Year	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	EXPORT	292,287.13	418,871.50	275,728.38	427,168.66	477,957.97
2.	%Growth		43.31	-34.17	54.92	11.89
3.	IMPORT	18,884.54	26,252.50	33,865.95	36,778.27	28,194.03
4.	%Growth		39.02	29.00	8.60	-23.34
5.	TOTAL TRADE	311,171.66	445,124.00	309,594.32	463,946.92	506,152.00
6.	%Growth		43.05	-30.45	49.86	9.10

(d) & (e) India has also got tariff concessions on 29 items from Bangladesh during the Fourth Round of SAPTA negotiations. The exchange of tariff concessions mutually benefit both the countries by providing better market access.